

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

February 28, 2023

Judith Moskal-Kanz, APRN

Good morning, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio and Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Judith Moskal-Kanz, APRN, and I am a Nurse Practitioner working in the Bulkely High School, and MLK School Based Health Center with Hartford Public Schools. My SBHC sites offer Mental Health care, dental care, and medical care including reproductive services, physicals, immunizations, asthma care and routine walk-in services to almost 700 students, plus those in surrounding schools without SBHCs.

I am writing today to testify about H.B. No. 6659 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.)

Every child deserves a chance to be healthy and to reach their full potential in life, but many children have health problems that make it difficult for them to learn and succeed. We all want young people in CT to be healthy and thriving. School-based health centers play a vital role in helping young people with their medical, mental and oral health concerns. Healthy kids make better learners.

Almost \$429,000 was removed from the SBHC line item. We have asked DPH to explain the discrepancy and it is thought that this was the COLA that was allocated in previous years. With the mental health crisis what it is today, why would that even be a consideration.

I ask the Appropriations Committee to please support this bill but to consider adding the COLA back into the line item. It is vital to our funding as the cost of everything has increased. With passage, this bill will allow these sites to offer supports for young people who can then continue to thrive and remain in school. This is critical to their future. I also ask that you consider supporting the expansion of School Based Health Centers, not only to include mental health services, but also medical services, removing many of the barriers to accessing the care our youth need. Thank you for supporting School Based Health Centers.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Moskal-Kanz, APRN
Bulkeley High School SBHC
Martin Luther King SBHC
860-695-1098